

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Third Norfolk Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Third Norfolk Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 4.0% (4,868) reside in the Third Norfolk Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (925) of Third Norfolk Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 77.8% of admissions from the Third Norfolk Representative District were male and 22.1% were female.
- Over 68% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.1% of admissions were white non-Latino, 10.7% were black non-Latino, 5.3% were Latino, 0.4% were Asians, and 2.3% were other racial categories.
- 65.0% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 10.7% were married, and 14.2% reported not to be married now.
- 25.4% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.5% completed high school, and 19.9% had more than high school education.
- 20.4% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 44.2% of those admitted were homeless.
- 9.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

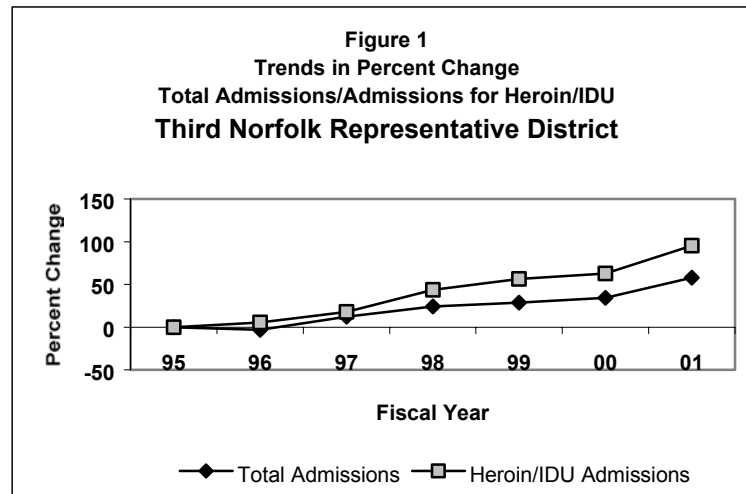
- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Third Norfolk Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Third Norfolk Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	3,081	2,493	644	960	536	869	683
FY '96	2,984	2,420	760	955	627	920	717
FY '97	3,452	2,981	1,091	1,238	868	1,048	782
FY '98	3,828	3,178	1,156	1,167	844	1,302	929
FY '99	3,962	3,267	1,107	1,264	872	1,387	1,038
FY '00	4,140	3,302	1,106	1,191	801	1,447	1,081
FY '01	4,868	3,761	1,150	1,346	799	1,768	1,261

- Since FY 1995, admissions from Third Norfolk Representative District reported a steady increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use more than doubled, and, alcohol use increased by 50%, marijuana by 78%, cocaine by 40%, crack use by 49%.

Heroin and Injection Drug Use:

Figure 1 below shows the proportional increases in all admissions in the Third Norfolk Representative District and the proportional increase in admissions reporting heroin and injection drug use, a factor driving increases in HIV¹.



- Total treatment admission for all modalities rose 58% between FY 1995 and FY 2001. During the same period, admissions for heroin and injection drug use treatment increased by 95%.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Third Norfolk Representative District.

	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	55.7 %	30.8%	3.6%	3.6%	2.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was level with the State average, alcohol as a primary drug was higher, and, heroin, marijuana, and crack was lower within your District.

¹ The Schneider Institute for Health Policy, Brandeis University, 2000